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WHAT IS CLAIMED:

- 1. A residual current device having a reset lockout mechanism comprising: a housing;
- a user handle connected to a compression arm;
- a solenoid having a magnetized shaft and a relay whereby the solenoid is connected to the housing; and
 - a shim connected to the compression arm where the shim is slidably engaged to move from a position between the shaft and relay to a position where the shim is not between the shaft and the relay.